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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/657,190	09/09/2003	Hiroshi Seki	116738	1640
25944	7590	08/11/2005		
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC			EXAMINER	
P.O. BOX 19928			KINKEAD, ARNOLD M	
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2817	

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/657,190	SEKI, HIROSHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Arnold M. Kinkead	2817	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 May 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-5,8 and 10 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 May 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings was received on 05-18-05. The drawing is acceptable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5,8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo et al(US 5,025,230 of record in view of JP9-64199 new cite by applicant).

The reference to Kondo et al discloses a semiconductor device, see abstract and figure 1, with an external crystal oscillator (Xtal) installed outside. An inverting amplifier(IV1) is shown in parallel to Xtal, and comprises transistors with gate insulated film(see col. 10).

A buffer circuit with similar insulated gate transistors is shown(IV2, see col. 1, line 50 and see col. 10) is used for oscillation output to other circuits. N-channel and P-channel transistors are used and the transmission gate(TR) shown also uses insulated gate type transistors(see abstract) and this device serves as the feedback resistor(see col. 6, lines 10-15) and is thus " ON" all the time during oscillation operation.

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The transmission gate is not shown coupled in series between the inverting amplifier and output line to the buffer, but this arrangement, making use of the same ON-resistance of the transmission gate to current limit to the outside circuit and buffer, is conventional and the Japanese reference JP9-64199 is relied upon to show this.

In the translated detail description and abstract figure, the transmission gate(17) is shown coupled to the buffered output(18) to reduce the chances of surge current. In light of the above it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the oscillator circuit of Kondo et al with transmission gate resistive element in the feedback path to include additional resistance on the output buffer to minimize surge current to the output. This element being used as a general-purpose resistive element to be fabricated on chip as desired.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 6,7, and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
2. The examiner could not find fair suggestion for the external feedback resistance, series resistor and inverting amp, and second resistor...

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arnold M. Kinkead whose telephone number is 571-272-1763. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30 am -5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pascal can be reached on 571-272-1769. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Arnold M Kinkead

Primary Examiner

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